File No. 735
1988.

Collection No.

8/7/47 Mysore Residency

Bangalore.

Pros. Serial Nos. 1-30

Subject.

Strike in the Tobacco Factory

Bangalore

Previous References.

Fl. 422-97
Fl. 946-35
of 1928.
C.O. F. 98/28

Later References.

A
19/12/47 Ap

(1)

Mr MacIver telephoned me just now (he could not get our Secretary of the phone) to say that there was some rioting last night at the Tobacco Factory; but that all was quiet now.

I don't know if he could get my report up this 1.30

He added that the Commissioner of Police would send in a report (probably today)

Clive
9/5

... 9.5.36 (12.45pm.)

Secy
(Home)

Heard about this indirectly last night. When we were dining with Mr. Mac Iver and Mr Mellon (who has returned from Persia) came to report about it to Dr. It was connected with a minor Labour strike at the Tobacco Factory; but apparently the situation was well in hand all the time

Clive
9.5.36

Ref: 3

Do we report this? Would probably be as well to do so by Telegram, as there will be Press reports

9/5/36

4/ Comm. of Police report has been rec'd and is placed below. It seems scarcely necessary to make a special report to G.P.I., either by telegram or letter. A paragraph in the ordinary fortnightly report will suffice?

Lowe
10.5.36

Ref'd
10/5/36

5/ Should be passed to C.A. (after proper registration) with my draft para. for fortnightly report (please below).

Lowe
10.5.36

× Received. 11h 11.5.

Mr. Ellis

1 ** A... 1 10.7.36

D.No.5050. S.N.(2).

6 Better send in original to Collector and ask him to advise.

Id. C.G.N.E.
19/5

Two drafts submitted.

(Mas. June 6)

mas
20/5/36

21/5

T.N.T.
20-5-36.

S. N. (3 and 4) Issue.

Accepted
20/6.36

D.No.5235. S.N.(5).

Sup(K) 7 The Trade Dispute Act (VII of 1929) was applied to the C & M Station by Notification of the Govt. of India in the Foreign and Political Department No.585-I, dated the 26th September 1929. Rules to give effect to the provision of the Act were made by the Resident in Notification No.62, dated the 2nd June 1930. Sub-section (4) of section 1 which fixed a time limit for the Act was omitted by Act XIII of 1934.

S.N.5
F.139-29
9 (S)

S.N.18
do
9 (S)

8 Section 3 of the Act says that if any trade dispute exists or is apprehended the Local Government may by an order in

in writing refer the dispute to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation. The proviso to the section says that where both parties apply for a court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation, the Local Government shall refer the dispute to a Court or Board as the case may be.

In order to refer a dispute to a Court or a Board, there does not appear to be any need that both parties should apply for it; whenever a trade dispute exists or is apprehended the Local Government is competent to refer it to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation as it deems fit. The application of either conjointly or separately both parties for a reference to a Court or a Board makes it obligatory on the Local Govt. to refer the dispute to a Court or a Board as the case may be.

But as neither party is under any obligation to accept the findings of the Court or advice of the Board and reliance is placed on the force of public opinion, it seems desirable to follow the procedure adopted in England (the law in India being based on the law in force in England) of taking the consent of both parties before referring a dispute to a Court of Inquiry or a Board of Conciliation.

As observed by the Collector it does not appear to

desir- be-

be desirable to interfere in the dispute as an 'impartial arbitrator'. If at all any action is taken it may be taken under the Trade Dispute Act of 1929.

12

If approved the memorialists may be informed that the Trade Dispute Act is in force in the C & M Station and that the Government cannot see its way to intervene in the manner suggested at the instance only of one of the parties to the dispute.

para 9 of S.N.2 c.p.6 9 (R)

Draft submitted.

(From para 7)

mas
25/5/36.

Roydt.
Home

T.N.T.
25-5-36
26.

13.

I do not think that we need specially remind the memorialists that the Trade Disputes Act is in force in the C. & M. Sts. It is a fact of which they or their advisers should be aware; and our reply that we are not prepared to intervene at the request of only one of the parties gives an indirect indication that we are being guided by the provisions of the Act. The draft may issue as amended; and a copy should be sent to

Collector - Dist Registrar for information.
It should issue today.

Gone
26.5.36

S.N(6).Issue

D.No.5422. S.N.(7).

Please see S.N. 2, 5 and 6.

On a further examination of the question the following points also appear necessary to be considered.

"Trade disputes between employers and workmen do not concern employers and workmen only, but they concern the public also and they involve an obligation on Government" (vide the speech of the Member for Industries and Labour at para 3 of page 1- Extract from the Legislative Assembly Debates, Vol III, No.14).

As pointed out by the Collector, the "heavy artillery" of the Trade Dispute Act is used very rarely in settling industrial disputes and recourse is also not had to compulsory arbitration. The Royal Commission on Labour (in paras 2, 3 and 4 of the extract from Chapter VIII of their Report) point out the inadvisability of having

having recourse to compulsory arbitration and enforcement of the award; but express the hope that the Governments will lose no opportunity of utilising their power to appoint Boards or Courts when they believe that this action will serve some useful purpose.

16

S.N.41 page6 ¶ (X)

Paras 8, 9 and 10 the Report of the Commission deal with the duty of the Government in appointing Conciliation Officers and say that it is far better to get the parties to a dispute to settle it themselves than to put forward a settlement for them and attempt by invoking public opinion or otherwise to give it force. This suggestion of appointing Conciliation Officers was generally agreed to by the Government of India. They say that if the Governments in India are to give more active assistance in preventing industrial strife, they must ordinarily employ some other and simpler machinery than that provided by the Trade Dispute Act and that such assistance might with advantage be given more frequently.

S.N.41 page1-2 (para 4-5) ¶ (X)

S.N.7 C.P.33 P.U.C

The present applicants who are sympathisers, request the Government to interfere and bring about a settlement.

Submitted for orders.

mas 29/5/36

T.N.T. 29-5-36.

17

S. No.7 has crossed our reply to the representation which was communicated vide S. No.6 There is no further action to be taken at present. Dist. Rajpipla will address us again if at any stage it appears that fact intervention would do good.

3.6.36

D.No.5616.

S.N.(8). C.P. 35-36

18

Draft submitted.

(with file)

mas
5/6/36

T.N.T.
5-6-36

5/6/36

S.N.(9). Issue.

Awdit
15/6/36

C p.38-40.

D.No.5761. S.N.(10).

C.p.35-37 19 4 (R)

Please see S.N. 8 and 9.

Two drafts submitted.

(from para 19)

mas
10/6/36

T.N-T.
10-6-36.

20 The report has been separated from the draft. Two drafts and a report are for approval.

Reds

10.6.36.

21 In view of the enquiry from the CP the local Officer might well have submitted the local Officer might have submitted a complete self-contained report. The portions marked A & B of the draft report should be omitted & completed, & the draft retyped & re-submitted to-morrow.

11/6/36

22 Draft telephone message to the Commissioner of Police is submitted.

mas
12/6/36

T.N.T.
12-6-36

12/6

S.N.(11). Issue.

D.No.5893. S.N.(12).

D.No.5895. S.N.(13).

Para 21 ante.

23 The portions marked A and B of the draft report have been verified and necessary addition made in the draft S.N.(12).

T S.N.13 C.P.44 P.U.C.

C.P.42-43.

24 Paras 3 and 4 have since been included in the draft report.

The draft has been re-typed and re-submitted.

mas
12/6/36

(From para 21)

A.S.
T.N.T
12-6-36.

12.6.36

25 Thanks. May issue

S.N. (14-15). Issued.

c.p.53-63. D.No.5928. S.N.(16).

26 Submitted for information.

(From para 26)

mas
13/6/36

T.N.T.
13-6-36.

13/6/36

27 (I think it would be a good thing to complete this file by adding

Copies of the paragraphs from our last three fortnightly reports which deal with the strike. It is a good thing to have all information which has been sent to the G.of I. — in whatever form — collected in one file. C.A. should supply the necessary extracts for the R.O. II file).

16.6.36

I agree

Please tell the Collector that I should like to discuss this matter of the strike with him at 10.30 am. on Wednesday the 17th instant. If he cannot see me then on account of other business I could see him at 7 p.m. on the same date.

The extracts referred to in Secy's note may please be placed on this file which I should like to have back tomorrow (Tuesday) evening

16/6/36

29

I have spoken to Collector. He will attend at the Residency at 10.30 am. tomorrow & discuss with Resdt. The file should now be completed in the manner indicated and sent direct to Resdt today.

16.6.36

Resident.

x
placed below.
16.6.36

S. Nos. 17, 18 and 19
C.P. 64-68.
I.U.I.

Resdt
28

D.No.5974. S.N(20).

30 Resd: will doubtless wish to discuss this with Collector tomorrow. The proper course for a deputation of this kind is to ask to see the Collector in the first instance and then, if necessary to submit through him a request to see the Resd:

Lowe
16.6.36

Resd: Secretary,

31 I have discussed the situation with Resident this forenoon.

32 I would suggest that the reply to this letter be that "the Resident has directed the Collector & Dt. Magistrate to receive a deputation of the Strike Committee on application being made by them to the Collector to this effect".

33 I shall explain to the deputation, if and when it appears, the position regarding the Trades Disputes Act, and the difficulty and inadvisability of Government intervention in the Civil and Military Station on the application of one party only.

While

34

While the reply has to go to Mr. Chandur I think it should be so worded as to make it clear that the people I am to see are representatives from among the strikers themselves. Negotiations are at present being carried on between the management and the Strikers and the management are having no direct dealings with Mr. Chandur or Dr. Rangasami.

35

Mr Millin had an informal interview with Dr Rangasami this afternoon which indicates the possibility of an early settlement He advises that the reply need not issue for two days. I agree with him in this view.

COLLR. & DT. MAGISTRATE. 17/6/36

DESPATCHED
17 JUN. 1936

Ready
Howell

Fair draft copy
Note on file,
Forwarded by Collector
GSIC
18/6

Draft submitted.

mas
18/6/36

Ready

T.N.T
16-6-36.

36

A draft on the lines proposed is submitted for approval. In accordance with Mr. Mardon's recommendation, we may hold up the issue of the draft for

a couple days. Should enquire from W. Mac Dow on Friday ~~Saturday~~ or Saturday morning what the position is and whether he should intervene

Yours 18.6.36

Rec'd 37

As proposed please

38 When Mr Mac Dow. saw me on Wednesday morning the 17th / ~~Thursday~~ drew his attention to certain portions marked by me with blue pencil of the Govt's letter to Local Govts on the Question of extending the life of the Trade Disputes Act and its enclosure – extracts from the Labour Commissioner's Reports. The portions referred to deal with (a) informal efforts to help to bring about a settlement or rather to prevent a strike taking place, by conciliation officers (b) the nature of the reports relating to ~~impending~~ threatened or actual strikes to be sent to Govt.

39 As regards (a) – I asked him if he thought he could help informally to bring about a settlement of the strike. He said that both he & Mr Milton had seen the manager of the factory informally on two or three occasions about the strike & had made certain suggestions which they thought might help towards a settlement of which adopted. He also said that his latest information was that the chances of a settlement were now more hopeful & that in the circumstances it was better not to approach the manager at the moment. With this I agreed.

As regards (b) – a reference to the

40

Labour Commr's Report shows that the reports we have received regarding the strike do not contain all the information we require. However it is too late now to rectify that, but I should like to receive promptly from the Collector reports of important developments in the situation as they occur

C 18/6/36

Secy

I have spoken to Collector this afternoon. He recommends that the draft should now issue at once, omitting the last sentence.

May issue?

C

19.6.36

(Collector has seen Reade's note above

C

Good!

Thanks. May issue.

C 19/6

42

Secy

Issue at once

Today

C

20/6

S.N.(21). Issue.

44

Resident handed over this file to me for perusal after discussion on 17.6.36. It is now returned with thanks.

I received a deputation of strikers on 26.6.36 for about an hour. Particulars of what transpired have been furnished in my confidential fortnightly report of today's date.

Thomas Lewis
27/6/36.

Secy
T.Gle
27/6
N.L. Stick.

CORRESPONDENCE.

IMMEDIATE.

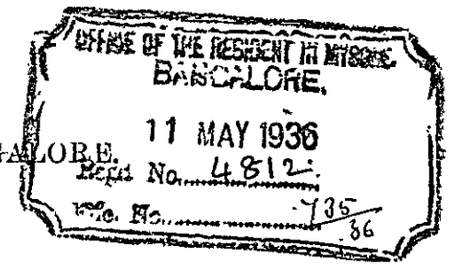
(1)

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

No. 205/C2 *Dated* 9th May 1936.

FROM

R. S. Milton, Esquire,
COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION,
BANGALORE.



To

The Secretary
to the Hon'ble the Resident
in Mysore, B A N G A L O R E.

SIR,

1. I have the honour to report that a disturb place at the Tobacco Factory in the C.& M. Station yesterday afternoon-8/5/36.

2. On 5/5/36, owing to a cut in the wages of the Soldering Department about 50 Tinkers went on strike. Police bundobust was made in the mornings, noons, and evenings of the 6th & 7th, but nothing occured, though the number of strikers increased.

3. On the morning of 8/5/36 extra police were present as the management took on some extra hands in place of the strikers Nothing untoward happened.

4. At about 3-30.p.m. on 8/5/36 unexpected trouble started inside the Factory. The Management suddenly announced to the Packing Department coolies that for want of work their service would not be required for some days. The workers demanded wag for those days but the management refused. The Coolies refused to leave, and were with great difficulty persuaded to vacate the building. A large number of coolies then assembled in the Factory yard and began to give trouble. The small police party of 1 H.C., and 4 P.C's, with the assistance of the Factory Pathan watchmen endeavoured to cope with them. A Sub-Inspector and about 6 men joined the party at this stage. The Manager asked the Sub-Inspector to clear the crowd out of the Factory. The crowd attacked the gate house office, smashed the windows

and/

and/ threw out the records. They also damaged the gate and the gate-house window shutters, all the time throwing stones and brickbats. Stone throwing continued but the police and watchmen succeeded in getting the rioters outside the gate. One Police Head Constable and some watchmen received injuries from stones. Outside the gate the rioting continued.

5. Meanwhile a telephone message had been sent to Inspector Savotham Rao of "B" Circle who quickly collected some men from his Circle and a party of Reserve armed with Lathies and with them hastened to the spot.

6. These re-inforcements immediately attacked the rioters from the rear and the mob at once dispersed, rushing away through the creeks and bye lanes. A dozen of the fugitives were arrested by the police.

7. (Sergeant Fisher of "B" Division who arrived at the scene in his motor car before the police reinforcements, had to abandon the car and join the police party in the Factory as the level crossing gates were shut. The car was over turned by the mob, glasses smashed and the car suffered considerable damage)

8. The Factory was guarded by the Police for the night and a guard remains on duty.

9. Nine persons including a Police Head Constable and Punjabi Watchmen were sent to Hospital. It is reported that none of the injuries are serious.

10. This morning some strikers appeared outside the gate of the Factory but went away quietly when ordered to do so by the Police.

11. A case under Sections 147, 148, 149, 152, and 324, has been registered and is under investigation.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

R. F. Knuton

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE.

Copy to the District Magistrate, C. & M. Station, Bangalore.

T.N.T. 18-5-36. Rec'd 19/5 N.Z. 13

-2 A.S

735/36

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE, BANGALORE.
18 MAY 1936
Regd. No. 5050
Misc. No. 735-36

To

The Hon'ble the British Resident
in Mysore,
BANGALORE.

487

Sir,.

(1) We, the workers of the Factory of the Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd., Bangalore most humbly and respectfully memorialise to your Gracious Self some of our most outstanding grievances at this hour of ordeal and pray that your generous Government be pleased to intervene in the situation and bring about a peaceful settlement.

(2) It might have been well within the knowledge of your government that we as workers of the Factory were peaceful toilers for the last several years, carrying on our daily outturn of work under conditions, which even though very generally disadvantageous, were certainly not so bad as we are now threatened with. Under the pre-strike conditions our average income capacity was somewhere about Rs.1-8-0 per working day just able to keep our families a-going.

(3) But a week or two back the management of the said factory introduced certain changes in the N & Z Departments, which in their nature went to curtail the number of workers therein, and render the earning capcity of the rest below the level of barest subsistence.

(4) With the threat of retrenchment facing us on the one hand and the reduced income forced upon us on the other, we were constrained to refrain ourselves from working, unless some hopeful substitutes or alternatives were held out to us in connection of the possible losses we are likely to sustain. In a protest against the

proposed system, we formally entered on a strike on Tuesday and did not turn up to work in Factory. The suspension of work in these departments continued till Friday.

(5) On Friday at about 3-30 P.M., the women workers of the Factory were informed by the management that their services were not wanted till there was resumption of work by men in N & Z departments and that they might go home. The women in reply pleaded that if an assurance could be held out by the management that the period of absence from work entailed by this order could be computed for payment of their wages, they will have no hesitation to leave their work, for it would mean only an involuntary absence and not once solicited by them. The management refused to offer the assurance and the workers were left with no other alternative but to stick to their work. The only alternative possibly open to them to the disobedience of the order is the sure starvation that must commence with the morrow for an indefinite time. This reasoning of the female workers was rather embarassing to the management which could only meet it with an assertion that the workers must quit or otherwise they would forcibly expel them. The women were adamant. The management with the help of the Punjabi workers and the Police used force to expel the women, who dispersed in confusion. Several of them were rudely handled by the dispersing force. This scene synchronised with the departure of hands in the Engineering department, a non-participant body in the strike till then, and when the workers of that department witnessed these events, several among them who were either husbands, fathers or brothers of these women, must have been provoked and joined the crowd in defence of the women. The clash with the police and punishis was severe. Several men and women sustained

5

serious injuries. Private medical aid is being obtained by several of the injured who have not found their way to the Hospitals.

(6) The sequel to these events was the strike got intensified, other departments of the Factory also joining it in sympathy or due to their own individualistic grievances peculiarly pertaining to their departments. Nearly 3,000 hands are now on the street without employment and on the verge of starvation.

(7) We formed ourselves into a committee of elected representatives with suitable spokesmen. We wanted to proceed by peaceful and constitutional methods of persuasion, discussion and negotiation with the management to make them realise the real hardships under which we were placed. We formulated our grievances, contained in the Schedule B hereunto annexed and presented them to the management for reasonable consideration. The management also at first showed signs of inclination to negotiate with us as the correspondence herein enclosed in Schedule A will indicate. It looked all for a moment that both the parties would come to a speedy settlement, if not on all matters of dispute, at least on their most fundamental ones.

(8) But at the 11th hour, when the parties met at the B.R.V. Club, the management for reasons best known to themselves have changed their attitude and on the alleged strength of a telegram purported to have been received from the officials of their head office at Calcutta, ~~and~~ They ~~given~~ gave a go-by to the spirit of negotiation and conciliation. It looks as if a settlement is not possible in the near future. The situation on the one hand is getting acute and agonising for the worker. His suffering has been immense and tried too much he too must break down. A Relief Committee of the workers and the public has been formed, which to the best of its capacity, is

organising some help for the most distressed among us, but that is only a temporary make shift.

We have a firm belief in the impartiality and justice of Your administration and we are confident that Your Gracious Self has in your heart the welfare of the worker as that of his employer. We having found our employers not inclined to consider our claims, cannot but think of our government as our protector and invoke its intervention in this hour of crisis. We in the C & M Station are a bit in the legislative disadvantage of not having for us the protective measures of a legislation like the Trade Union Act and the Trade Disputes Act operating in British India, but that is a thing whichhyour generous government can easily rectify by having them extended to this station by a notification. What we immediately require is the generous intervention of the government as an impartial arbitrator in this dispute and some speedy and honourable settlement.

Trusting that we will be helped in this hour of suffering.

We beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most humble and loyal
Memorialists.

Schedule A.

True copies of the correspondence that transpired between the Factory Management and the strike Committee.

Schedule B.

Strike Committee's memorandum of grievances.

7

SCHEDULE A.

The Management through their office staff sent an oral communication that it would be better for the good of all to come to an early settlement and that they are prepared to receive a representation of their grievances. The staff that came to the meeting told us that they were acting as mediators and as such wanted a list of the grievances. A copy of the same was handed over to them along with a note.

ROUGH REPRODUCTION.

As desired by you, we shall be glad to come to an early settlement and we therefore will send our representation to you at 6-30 p.m., to-day, provided that the following conditions are fulfilled, viz.,

1. Release of the arrested persons before any discussion can take place, and,

2. Mr. N.N. Chandur and Dr. S. Rangaswamy shall be allowed to participate in the discussions.

We are also anxious that there should be a speedy settlement and that you will do the needful in the matter.

Strike Committee.

The members who are arrested are entirely in the hands of the police and their release is a matter which can only be decided by the Civil authorities.

The meeting at 6-30 p.m., will be convenient.

Sd/- R. ROWATT.
11/5/36.

Bangalore,
11th May, 1936.

THE STRIKE COMMITTEE.

On further consideration, I find that the lighting

8)

of the Factory will be inadequate for a meeting at 6-30 p.m., and, therefore, I shall be glad if you will postpone it till another time. Any hour between 9 a.m., and 12 a.m., and 1 - 2 p.m., will suit.

In order to arrive at a speedy settlement, please arrange to limit your committee to two representatives per department, and to see that they are not accompanied by an unwieldy crowd.

I do not recognise the names of Mr. N. Chandur and Dr. S. Rangaswamy, and should like to know in what capacity they are attending the meeting.

Sd/- R. ROWATT,
Factory Manager.

To

The Factory Manager,
Imperial Tobacco Factory.

Dear Sir,

The committee are in receipt of your letter of to-day. After due consideration, the committee have arrived at the decision that Mr. N. N. Chandur and Dr. S. Rangaswamy alone shall represent us at the Conciliation meeting and that they are empowered to discuss matters with you with our full authority. We shall abide by any decision that they arrive at in consultation with you. Since we are not able to express ourselves we have authorised them to do so on our behalf.

yours faithfully,
Strike Committee Members.

11/5/36,
6.p.m.

19

R. ROWATT, ESQ.

Come to the factory at 10 a.m., to-morrow.

Sd/- R. ROWATT.

11/5/36.

Bangalore,

12th May 1936.

Mr. N. N. Chandur,
C/O Tomco Sales Dept.,
No.1 Central Street,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

I have been able to arrange for the Meeting to be held at the Reading Room of the B.R.V. at 9 a.m., tomorrow, so shall be pleased to see you there with one representative from each of our Departments.

It has been lent on the condition that a crowd does not collect in the vicinity.

Yours faithfully,

TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS (INDIA) LTD.

Sd/- R. ROWATT,
Factory Manager.

Bangalore,

15th May 1936.

N. N. Chundar, Esq.,
Central Street,
Bangalore.

Dear Sir,

With regard to the strike of labourers of this factory, I have to inform you that we can only negotiate with our own employees, with whom we are willing to consider any reasonable proposals which may lead to a resumption of work.

Yours faithfully,
TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS (INDIA) LTD.

Sd/- R. ROWATT,
Factory Manager.

10)

SCHEDULE B.

The demands of the workers in general.

1. No victimisation of the strikers;

2. Those who have been arrested must be released and taken back for their original work without any black-mark;

3. No retrenchment in the number employed should be made, But the labour must be adjusted by transfers;

4. System of leave and increments and provident fund should be introduced as in the Binny Mills;

5. Maternity benefits for women must be given;

6. Wages should be paid for the strike period;

7. Over-time payment must be given for extra hours of work;

8. Sick leave with pay for 15 days in the year must be given;

9. New appointments must be made by the Foreman without the consultation of maistries and clerks, which gives room for corruption and while employing fresh hands preferrence being given to old hands;

10. As before we must get one packet of quality cigarettes every week.

Demands of the different departments.

N Department.

1. Wages and over-money should not be reduced in the N and Z departments for round and square tins;

2. Our wages should not be reduced when the soldering machine arrives. When the work is slack we may be transferred to any other department of an equal kind of work but must not be discharged.

3. Cleaners should be given increments according to the custom prevalent four years back.

Z Department.

1. Our old rates, i.e., wages we were getting before M3 & M4 tins came into existence must be continued.

2. Our piece rates should not be reduced when the solder-

/11

ing machine comes. We may be transferred to other departments on an equal kind of work but not be discharged.

3. Company workers must get their regular increment in wages.

F Department.

1. The workers should get regular increments in wages, tenure of service guaranteed and women workers must have equal treatment in wages.

2. The over money of women workers should not be cut off.

3. Soldering workers of F department should get over money as in N. Department.

4. All the three sets in the decorating department should be continued. Our over money must not be cancelled.

5. Rose packing section sorkers should get increment as they had no increase for past three years

Standard Department.

1. The workers should be given the same wages as before and they should not be engaged in shifts.

2. The wages should be given for the whole day and workers be not employed for part time.

3. Over time should be given for extra hours of work.

Engineering Department.

Impartial enquiry must be held in regard to the unprovoked attack on women by the panjabies and police and the damages sustained by the workers must be made good.

The coolies must be given regular increments in wages.

M Department.

1. Four button system (signal passenger) to be introduced again. At present two button system has been introduced. The company workers were formerly helping us. Now that has been stopped. The same old system to be continued.

2. Wages to be increased. Only 25 boxes can be done. (Only experts can do.) The present wages are Rs.0-0-9 per box.

12)

We must get at least Re.0-1-0 per box

3. Wages for breaking and scrapping old boxes must be increased as at the present rate we cannot do much work and earn sufficient wages. 8 boxes only can be done by experts. 5 or 6 can be done by others.

4. Another man must be given for Gadi machine as before.

No.2 Godowns.

We are suppliers of Materials (cases) to the Factory. Hand working and carrying heavy loads upon heads.(Tin sheets.)

2. No increments.

3. We are working not inside the Department but outside the department in sun and rain.

Communication may kindly be addressed to Yesdas, No 44., Thimmiah Rd, Shanakoffi Cross C.M. Station, Bldr

Signatures of the Workers Representatives:-

1. D. James. L. [redacted] (Shipping.)
2. [illegible] (2. Department)
3. Subramoney N. D. P.
4. M.S. Patrick (F. Department)
5. D. Antony. (H. Department)

Bangalore
16-5-36.

26

URGENT.

DEPARTMENT. (Encl: 1 memorial in original) File No.

BRANCH. Serial No.

Draft Letter ✓ / ~~Memorandum~~ / ~~Telegram~~ F.735-36/R.O.II.

Issued 21-5-36

Class for telegrams

Ordinary
Express
Urgent*
Priority
Clear Line†

*Only for Foreign Telegrams.

†Not for Foreign Telegrams.

No. Dated 21st May 1936.

From

The Secretary to the Resident.

To

The Collector and District Magistrate,
C & M Station, Bangalore.

To be issued on	Issued on
1st Reminder	
2nd Reminder	
3rd Reminder	
Heading:	
Case or Diary No.	
If post copy of telegram required	
Date of despatch of above	
List of enclosures	

(Code word for telegrams.)

* Redwin requested

Subject:- Strike in the Tobacco Factory, Bangalore.

Sir,

I am directed to forward a * memorial in original from the workers of the Factory of the Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd., Bangalore, dated the 16th May 1936, and to request that the Hon'ble the Resident may kindly be favoured with your ~~views~~ advice at an early date

I have etc.,

For Secretary to the Resident.

mas
20/5/36

T.N.T.
20-5-36.

S. S.
MGIPC—S1—158(Cent)MFP—(M-1933)—3-5-34—50,000 Pads.

27

Draft II

21-5-36

21-5

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Draft ~~Letter~~ / Memorandum / ~~Telegram~~ F.735-36/R.O.II.

No. Dated 21st May 1936.

Class for telegrams

Ordinary
Express
Urgent*
Priority
Clear Line†

*Only for Foreign Telegrams.

†Not for Foreign Telegrams.

To be issued on

Issued on

1st Reminder

2nd Reminder

3rd Reminder

Heading:

Case or Diary No.

If post copy of telegram required

Date of despatch of above

List of enclosures

(Code word for telegrams.)

To

Mr. Yesdas and others,
No.44, Thimmiah Road, Dhanakoti
Cross, C & M Station, Bangalore

MEMORANDUM

The C/S is directed to acknowledge receipt of ~~With reference to their~~ memorial dated the 16th May 1936, from Mr. Yesdas and others ~~are informed that the question is under consideration.~~

21/5

Asst. Secretary to the Resident.

mas
20/5/36

T.N.T.
20-5-36.

21/5

No. 1828-B-36

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR AND DT. MAGISTRATE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

Dated 23rd May 1936.

FROM
L. J. MacIver, Esquire, I.C.S.,

COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION,
BANGALORE.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE.
23 MAY 1936
Regd No. 6285
File No. 735-36

To.
The Secretary to the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

SIR,

Strike in the Tobacco Factory, Bangalore - Your letter No. F 735-36/R.O.II dated 21st May 1936.

The workers in their memorial under reference (returned herewith in original) ask for the intervention of Government as an "impartial arbitrator" in the dispute so as to bring about a speedy and honourable settlement. They do so on the assumption and on the ground that The Trade Union Act and The Trade Disputes Act are not in force in the Station. In this assumption they are wrong, because as we know The Trade Disputes Act 1929 has already been extended to the Civil and Military Station.

2. Under that Act (Sect. 3) the Local Government may refer a trade dispute to a court of Inquiry or to a Conciliation Board, and shall do so on the application of both parties to the dispute. But I very much doubt whether the present dispute is one that demands the use of the "heavy artillery" of the Trade Disputes Act. It appears that such action by Government has very rarely been taken, even in the large industrial centres, where Trade Unions are in being, and in Provinces where an Expert Labour Department exists. With our lack of experience and of suitable people to undertake such an enquiry which would be an elaborate one, it would, I think be unwise, and indeed un-

unnecessary to resort to a course, which has rarely been found necessary in India.

3. The memorialists however ask for intervention by Government as an "impartial arbitrator". I am equally opposed to this course. For one thing arbitration would be extremely complicated, (vide the ~~documents~~ demands of the labourers) and we would have no means of enforcing any award, because we could neither coerce the workers into accepting possibly disagreeable terms nor the management, which seems to be strictly controlled in their action by their Head Office in Calcutta.

para 9 of S.N.2 C.P.6

4. I think therefore the wise course would be to reply that it is regretted that Government cannot see its way to intervene in the manner suggested at the instance only of one of the parties to the dispute.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

COLLECTOR & DT. MAGISTRATE.

S.N.6

30

issue today
21-5-36

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Issued
26th May

Draft ~~Letter~~ ~~Memorandum~~ ~~Telegram~~ F.735-36/R.O.II.

Class for telegrams	Ordinary / Express / Urgent* / Priority / Clear Line†	*Only for Foreign Telegrams. †Not for Foreign Telegrams.

No. Dated 26th May 1936.

To be issued on

Issued on

1st Reminder

2nd Reminder

3rd Reminder

Heading:

Case or Diary No.

If post copy of telegram required

Date of despatch of above

List of enclosures

(Code word for telegrams.)

S.N.2
C.P.3-25
7/(R)

To

Mr. Yesdas and others,
No.44, Thimmiah Road, Dhanakoti
Cross, C & M Station, Bangalore.

M-E M O R A N D U M.

With reference to their memorial dated the 16th May 1936, Mr. Yesdas and others are informed that the Hon'ble the Resident ~~requests that he~~ is not prepared to ~~interfere~~ intervene in the manner suggested at the instance only of one of the parties to the dispute.

para 9 of S.N.2
C.P.6
7/(R)

~~2. It may be noted that the Trade~~ Dispute Act (VII of 1929) was applied to the C. & M Station, Bangalore, by Notification of the Govt. of India in the Foreign and Political Department

5.

3IPC—S1—158(Cent)MFP—(M-1983)—3-5-34—50,000 Pads.

S.N.5
F. 139-29

~~ment No.585-I, dated the 26th Septembe~~ r
~~1929.~~

for Secretary to the Resident.

mas
25/5/36

T.N.T.
26-5-36.

Copy to Collector - Dist: Rajs
for information.

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR & DISTRICT MAGISTRATE
C & M: STATION
25 MAY 1936
No. 1839 B

S. W. 1

32

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE.
29 MAY 1936
Regd No. 6422.
File No. 135-36.

To

The Hon'ble the British Resident
in Mysore,
BANGALORE.

Through. The Collector
C & M. Station.

Sir,

We the undersigned, interested in the cause of labour, most humbly and respectfully beg to submit the following few facts for your Generous consideration and necessary action.

That the workers of the Factory of the Tobacco (India) Manufacturers Ltd., are on strike for the last 17 days is well within the knowledge of your benign government.

As humble workers in the field of labour we felt it our duty to be of some substantial use and guidance to the several thousands of labourers, who had left their jobs and exposed themselves to possibilities of indiscipline and disorderliness.

We entered the field, organised them on constitutional basis, formulated their grievances and presented their demands to the management for reasonable consideration.

We sincerely hoped that the authorities of the Factory would appreciate the spirit of persuasion, negotiation and conciliation, adopted by us and come to terms on at least some of the most fundamental and indispensable demands adumbrated by the workers. Even in our personal talks, the Factory Manager, Mr. Rowatt, we made it beyond doubt that our position as representat of the workers, need not be unnecessarily misconstrued

and that we had no other objective out to bring about a speedy and honourable settlement.

On grounds probably sentimental, our position and bonafides could not be correctly appreciated and a settlement with the workers themselves was insisted upon by the management.

Though industrial disputes in the modern civilised society are not strictly the subject matter of a domestic forum, and are to be confined to the affairs of the employer and the employee, we felt in the interests of the workers, that the sense of sentiment and prestige of the employer shall be allowed to prevail, provided the demands of the strike Committee shall be met on basis of reason and sympathy.

We accordingly advised workers to elect among themselves two representatives for each department and meet the management to ascertain how far sympathy and reason would respond to their grievances.

Shocked we are to say that even most fundamental demands were cast in balance of doubt and no assurance could be forthcoming for the safety and non-victimisation of the workers.

Finding that the workers have grown desperate over this answer, we have been endeavouring in the last 3 meetings in exhorting the workers to preserve the non-violent attitude of suffering, even if it be the worst starvation of their women and children in their homes. We are also exerting our best to secure relief for the most distressed among them but that does not go to satisfy even their barest needs.

Hunger on the one hand and hopelessness about some speedy settlement on the other have engendered feelings

(34

of restlessness and intolerance in the minds of workers and we are afraid that even with the confidence we carry with the workers, it may not be possible for us to harness their minds and regulate them in channels of constitutional agitation.

It is prayed that our position in respect of any loseness of attitude getting fomented in some unknown and undetectable channels shall not be misconstrued and that before any such feelings of reactionary kind seize the minds of the workers the Gracious Government may be pleased to interfere and bring about a settlement.

Hoping that some immediate action will be taken in the matter.

Bangalore,
Date.

We beg to remain,
Sir,
your most obedient and loyal servants,

S. Rangaswamy
Chandr
H.S. Narasiah

Bangalore
23-5-36.

NDis 1839 B/36.
Forwarded to the Secretary to the Hon'ble the President in Mysore, Bangalore, in continuation of this Office letter No. 1828 B/36 dt. 23.5.36.

T.N.T. 29-5-36

785/36

Collector & DM
26/5
Dn 25/5. H 25.5.

DESPATCHED
28 MAY 1936

135

All communications should be addressed to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Industries and Labour, by title, NOT by name.

Telegrams:
"INDUSTRIES".

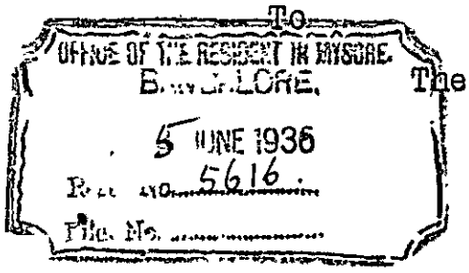
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.
Department of Industries and Labour.

No. L871
Dated Simla, the 15th June 1936.

From

J.A. Mackeown, Esquire, I.C.S.,
Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India,

To



The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore and the Chief Commissioner,
Coorg.

Subject:- Strike in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory.

Sir,

I am directed to enclose a copy of the press cutting from the "Statesman", Delhi, dated the 25th May 1936 regarding the strike in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory and to request that the Government of India may kindly be furnished at an early date with a report giving the following particulars of the strike :-

(1) date of commencement of the strike,
(2) number of men involved with important variations in the number, if any, during the course of the strike,
(3) cause of the strike,
(4) trend of important events, and
(5) the date of termination and result of the strike.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

J.A. Mackeown

Deputy Secretary to the Govt. of India.

D.A.- Referred to.

AMR/1-6.

136

Cutting from Newspapers

Name of Paper The Statesman
Published at Delhi
Dated 25th May 1936

Bangalore strike
Government asked to interfere

Bangalore. May 20.

The Bangalore tobacco factory strikers have submitted a memorial to the British Resident in Mysore asking for Government intervention with a view to bringing about a peaceful settlement.

The memorial states that 3,000 employees of the factory are on the verge of starvation and among them are several who were injured in the clash with the police and Punjabi watchmen. The memorial refers to the failure of negotiations with the management and asks for intervention of the Government as "impartial arbitrator" in the dispute.

The memorialists state that they are at a disadvantage as they have no legislative protection such as that afforded by the Trades Union Act and the Trades Disputes Act which are in force in British Indian Provinces. They state that this is a defect which the Government can easily rectify by having those Acts extended to the Bangalore civil and military station by notification.

Urgent S.N.9

37

Res. Mysore 39.

OFFICE OF THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE,

Bangalore, the 5th June *1936.*

No. F.735-36. / R. O. II. encl: 2

Issued m/ 5-6-36

A copy of the undermentioned paper(s) is forwarded to the

Collector and District Magistrate, C & M Station, Bangalore,

~~for information,~~ in continuation of / with reference to ~~the correspondence ending with his~~ Memorandum / letter / endorsement ~~from~~ with the request that the information asked for ~~therein~~ may kindly be furnished to this Residency at a very early date.

~~No.~~ ~~dated the~~

By order, etc.,

(with fair)

~~Secretary~~ / *Asst. Secy.* *to the Resident.*

LIST OF PAPERS.

S.N. 8. / c.p.35-36. P.U.C

Letter from the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour No. L871, dated the 1st June 1936.with enclosure.

mas 5/6/36 T.W.T. 5-6-36.

1621—2-4-1935—2,000—RPB.

S.N.11

41

TELEPHONE MESSAGE.

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Issued at 11.40 A.M. 12-6-36 post copy sent mp 12-6-36. at 12-20 P.M.

Rec. 12.6.

Letter / Memorandum / Telegram **Draft** F.735-36/R.C.II.

No. Dated 12 June 1936

Class for telegrams: Ordinary / Express / Urgent* / Priority / Clear Line† — *Only for Foreign Telegrams. †Not for Foreign Telegrams.

From

The Asst. Secretary to the Resident.

To.

The Commissioner of Police,
C & M Station, Bangalore.

To be issued on	Issued on
1st Reminder	
2nd Reminder	
3rd Reminder	
Heading :	
Case or Diary No.	
If post copy of telegram required	R.N.1 / C.P.1
Date of despatch of above	
List of enclosures	

(Code word for telegrams)

~~Subject~~ ~~Reference your letter~~ ~~No.~~.

Reference your letter No.205/C2, dated the 9th May 1936 regarding the strike in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory.

In para 9 it is stated that nine persons including a Police Head Constable and 4 Punjabi Watchmen were sent to Hospital. Please verify the statement.

In para 11 it is stated that a case under sections 147, 148, 149, 152 and 324 has been registered and is under investigation. Will you kindly let me know urgently, for the information of the Resident, against whom the case has been registered and whether any persons have been arrested.

A reply may kindly be sent before 2 P.M. to-day.

Please contact a/c Sent mp 12-6-36

S. 5.
MGIPC—S1—158(Genl)MFP—(M-1933)—8-5-34—50,000 Pads.

mas 12/6/36

URGENT

No. 2000-B-36.Enc.1

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

Dated 8th June 1936.

FROM

L.J.MacIver, Esquire, I.C.S.,
COLLECTOR AND DISTRICT MAGISTRATE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION,
BANGALORE.

To

The Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

SIR,

STRIKE IN THE BANGALORE TOBACCO FACTORY - YOUR ENDORSEMENT NO. F.735-36/R.O.II dated 5-6-1936.

I attach a report which gives the ~~required~~ information, as the required for

Further particulars have already been furnished in previous reports.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE.
9 JUNE 1936
Regd. No. 5761
File. No. 735-36

DESPATCHED
-8 JUN. 1936

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

COLLECTOR & DT.MAGISTRATE.

Returned to the District Magistrate, C & M Station, Bangalore.

Information required is as follows:-

1. Strike commenced on 5th May 1936.

2. The Tinkers and Tin solderers struck work at first, numbering about 300. The cessation of work in the tin making departments practically brought work in all departments to a stand still. On 8-5-36 further work in the Factory became impossible and the rest of the labourers, men and women, number about 1,500 were informed accordingly. From that date practically all daily paid workers have been out.

3. Cause of strike. The main cause was the introduction of New and Improved machinery in the Tinning Departments. The workers anticipated that this new machinery would result in a reduction in their earnings and the discharge of a number of hands. They appear to have demanded of the Management a guarantee that no men would be sent away and no wages reduced. The Management refused these demands and the workers struck.

4. On the 8th afternoon, when as mentioned in para(2) the balance of labourers were informed that their services would not be required until the strikers returned, the men and women refused to leave the Factory. They demanded pay for the days they would be out and adopted Satyagraha tactics. Endeavours were made by the Factory watchmen and a few Police to persuade them to leave the premises. A somewhat serious disturbance resulted, and before the rioters could be got out they smashed windows, destroyed records in the Gate House Office, damaged furniture and the Factory gate. Rioting and stone throwing continued around the gates of the Factory until the arrival of Police re-enforcements when the mob was promptly dispersed by latty charges from the front and rear. One watchman was seriously injured and minor injuries were sustained by some others on both sides.

From the commencement of the strike daily meetings of strikers have been held morning and evening. After a few days a couple of leaders — outsiders - appeared viz., Dr. Rangasamy and Mr. N.N. Chandur. These are men of Communist or Congress sympathies. They addressed all meetings encouraged strikers to hold out, formulated a long list of strikers' grievances and continue to give encouragement and assistance to the strikers. Some Ragi and Rice was distributed at the meetings.

Various

Various negotiations between the strike Committee and the Management from time to time appear to have resulted in no progress towards settlement.

On Saturday 30th May it was announced that the strikers would hold a monster procession through the streets of the Civil and Military Station to advertise their grievances, collect money and enlist the sympathy of the public. On the same night the Police, anticipating a breach of the peace, issued a notice on the leaders under Section 22 of the Bangalore Police Law prohibiting such a procession unless it was controlled and the organisers took out a license from the Commissioner of Police. The procession on Sunday did not take place. Subsequently a license was applied for and granted under certain conditions, and under license , a procession of 200 strikers with placards etc., marched through certain streets of the Civil and Military Station on the morning of Thursday 4th. The procession passed off without incident and aroused little interest.

In the early days of the strike the local Congress Committee also assisted by addressing meetings and issuing appeals to the Public for help.

During the last few days the Congress Committee and Messrs. Chandur and Rangasami have fallen out and the local Congress Committee have dissociated themselves from the strike and its leaders.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Vallabhai Patel who are in Bangalore have been approached for advice and assistance by the Strike leaders Results of these appeals are not yet apparent.

5. The Strike continues.

COMMISSIONER OF POLICE,
C & M Stn, Bangalore.

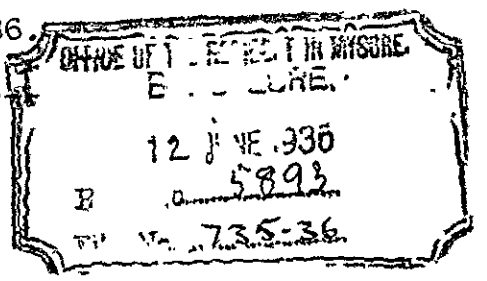
Dated 8th June 1936.

C.B.No:79/36

Forwarded to the District Magistrate, C & M Stn, Bangalore with reference to his endorsement No. 2000/B/36 dated 5-6-36.

S. N. 12

Extract from fortnightly report for the Civil and Military Station for the first half of June 1936.



Labour activities.

1. The Tobacco Factory strike continues. Strike meetings have been held daily since my last report and Dr. Ranga and Mr. N.N. Chandur continue to exhort the strikers to stay out until all their grievances are redressed.

2. A monster procession of strikers through the Civil and Military Station announced for Sunday the 31st was prohibited by the Police and the leaders instructed to take out a license for any such procession. License was duly applied for and granted and a procession under control passed off without incident on 4th June 1936.

3. The leaders Ranga and Chandur have been promising strikers that sympathetic strikes are being organised at the Sharanpur and other Factories. The Sharanpur Police have been informed.

4. An intended procession in Bangalore City was prohibited by the authorities there.

5. The strikers are collecting funds and some grains are being distributed to the more needy among them.

6. The local Congress Committee who were sympathising with and helping the strikers suddenly withdrew all support and publicly dissociated themselves from the strike and its leaders. There are two contradictory stories to account for this break.

7. Some progress in negotiations between the Strike Committee and the Management appears to have been made during the last few days and hopes of an early resumption of work have risen and fallen accordingly. One of the Punjabi watchmen injured in riot at the beginning of the strike has died in

in hospital.

Sd/- R.S. Milton

C & M Station. Commissioner of Police.
Dated, Bangalore, 9th June 1936.

S.N.13

S.N.T. 12-6-36.

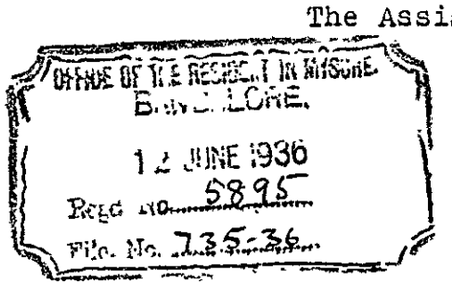
TELEPHONE MESSAGE.

From

The Commissioner of Police,
Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

To

The Assistant Secretary to the Resident in Mysore.



Bangalore, 12th June 1936.

MESSAGE.

S.N.11
C.p.41
of (R)

Reference your telephone message this forenoon regarding information on my letter No.205/C.2 dated 9th May 1936 regarding the strike in Bangalore Tobacco Factory.-

1. Nine persons including a police Head Constable and five Punjabi watchmen were sent to Hospital.
2. The case was registered against 3 persons in the first instance on the night in question, and 7 more persons have been arrested subsequently on identification among the strikers from time to time. On the whole 10 persons are accused in the case. They are let on bail till the 24th instant by the Magistrate

Recd. by. mas
1.55 P.M.

S. N. 14

145

No. F.735-36 / R.O.II encl: 1

Issued 13-6.

From

The Hon'ble Lieut. Colonel C.T.C.Plowden, C.I.E.,
Resident in Mysore.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Industries and Labour.

Dated Bangalore, the 13th June 1936.

STRIKE IN THE BANGALORE TOBACCO FACTORY.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.L871, dated the 1st June 1936, I have the honour to enclose a report which gives the information required.

S.N.8 / C.P.35-36

2. On the 18th May 1936, the workers of the Bangalore Tobacco Factory submitted a memorial to the Resident requesting the Government to intervene as an "impartial arbitrator" and bring about a satisfactory settlement; and they were informed that the Resident was not prepared to intervene in the manner suggested at the instance only of one of the parties to the dispute.

S.N.2 / C.P.3-25

S.N.6 / C.P.30

3. The Trade Disputes Act (VII of 1929) has been applied to the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore by Notification of the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department, No.685-I, dated the 26th September 1929.

S.N.5 / F.139-29

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Lieut. Colonel,
R E S I D E N T.

mas

BJ

114/B(46

REPORT ON THE STRIKE IN THE BANGALORE FACTORY OF TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS (INDIA), LIMITED.

---:0:---

Vide S.N. 1 and 10

During April 1936, the Management of Tobacco Manufacturers (India), Limited, Bangalore, introduced improved machinery into the Tinning Departments of their Factory, which apparently was likely to lead to a reduction in the number of hands employed. The workers anticipating retrenchment of personnel and a possible reduction in wages, demanded a guarantee that no workers would be discharged and that wages would not be reduced. The Management refused these demands and the workers struck on 5th May 1936. At first the strike was restricted to the Tinkers and Tin Solderers, numbering about 300.

The cessation of work in the tin-making departments brought work practically to a stand-still in all other departments of the Factory. On the 8th May further work in the Factory became impossible and on that date the Management announced to the remaining workers, men and women, numbering about 1,500, that, for want of work, their services would not be required for some days, i.e., until the strikers returned to work. The workers refused to leave the Factory; they demanded pay for the days that they would be out of employment and adopted satyagraha. The Factory watchmen and the few Police on the spot (1 Head Constable and 4 Police Constables) succeeded with difficulty in persuading the workers to vacate the Factory building. The latter then assembled in the Factory yard and began to give trouble. A somewhat serious disturbance resulted and before the workers could be got out of the yard, they broke windows,

destroyed

destroyed records in the Gate House office, damaged furniture and the Factory gate. Rioting and stone-throwing continued round the gates of the Factory until the arrival of Police reinforcements when the rioters were dispersed by lathi charges from the front and the rear. One watchman was seriously injured (he has since died of his wounds), and minor injuries were sustained by a few others on both sides, including a police Head Constable and five Punjabi watchmen, nine persons in all being sent to hospital. A case under sections 147, 148, 149, 152 and 324 of the Indian Penal Code was registered against three persons on the night in question; and seven more persons from among the strikers were arrested subsequently on identification. These ten persons have been released on bail.

para 9 of S.N.1 and S.N.13 c.p. 46

para 11 of S.N.1 and S.N.13 c.p. 44

From the commencement of the strike meetings of strikers have been held daily, morning and evening. After a few days a couple of leaders — people from outside — appeared on the scene, namely, Dr. Rangasamy and Mr. N.N.Chandur. These two persons are of Communist and Congress sympathies. They addressed all meetings, encouraged the strikers to hold out, formulated a long list of strikers' grievances and continue to give encouragement and assistance to the strikers.

On Saturday 30th May it was announced that the strikers would take a large procession through the streets of the Civil and Military Station to advertise their grievances, collect money and enlist the sympathy of the public. On the same night the Police, anticipating a breach of the peace, issued a notice on the leaders under Section 22 of the Bangalore Police Law prohibiting such a procession unless it was controlled and the organisers took out a licence from the Commissioner of Police. The procession did not take place. Subsequently a licence was applied for and granted under certain conditions; and, under licence, a procession of 200 strikers with placards etc.,

marched

marched through certain streets of the Civil and Military Station on the morning of Thursday the 4th of June. The procession passed off without incident and aroused little interest.

para 4 of S.M.12 Cp. 42

An intended procession in Bangalore City was prohibited by the Government of Mysore.

In the early days of the strike the local Congress Committee also assisted the strikers by addressing meetings and issuing appeals to the Public for help. During the last few days the Congress Committee and Messrs. Chandur and Rangasami have fallen out and the local Congress Committee has dissociated itself from the strike and its leaders.

para 3 of S.M.12 Cp.42.

The leaders, Messrs. Rangasami and Chandur, have been promising the strikers that sympathetic strikes are being organised at the Sharanpur and other Factories of the Company. The Sharanpur police have been informed.

Mr. Gandhi and Mr. Vallabhai Patel, who were recently in Bangalore, have been approached for advice and assistance by the strike leaders. The results of these appeals are not yet apparent.

Various negotiations between the strike Committee and the Management of the Factory have resulted in no progress towards a settlement; and the strike continues.

for SECRETARY TO THE RESIDENT.

S. N. 15

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No. F.735-36/R.O.II encl: 3

From

The Hon'ble Lieut. Colonel C.T.C.Plowden, C.I.E.,
Resident in Mysore.

Issued MP 13-6-

To

The Political Secretary to the Government of India,
Foreign and Political Department.

Dated Bangalore, the 13th June 1936.

STRIKE IN THE BANGALORE TOBACCO FACTORY.

Sir,

S.N.14 C.P. 45-48

I have the honour to forward a copy of letter No.F.735-36/R.O.II, dated the 13th June 1936, with enclosure addressed to the Government of India in the Department of Industries and Labour, regarding the strike in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

o/c

Lieut. Colonel
RESIDENT.

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S.N.16

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Petition dated 6th June 1936 from the Members of the Strike Committee, to the Collector, C.& M.Station, Bangalore.

We are enclosing herewith a copy of the memorandum explaining the situation as it exists here in connection with the strike that is now going for the past 33 days in the local factory of the Tobacco Manufactures (India)Ltd., for your information and kind interference.

12-6-36 (2-45-P.M)

S.N.18 C.P.No.40 Ref.No.2000-B-36. with Enc.

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE, BANGALORE. 13 JUNE 1936 Read No. 5928 File No. 735-36.

Copy with copy of enclosures forwarded to the Secretary to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, Bangalore, in continuation of this office No.2000-B-36 dated 8-6-1936.

S.N.10 C.P.No.40

Office of the Collector,
C.& M.Station, Bangalore,
Dated 12th June 1936.

COLLECTOR.

DESPATCHED 13 JUN.1936

Tobacco Factory Strike, Bangalore.

The strike in the local factory of the Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd., a subsidiary company of the Imperial Tobacco Coy of Great Britain and Ireland has been going on since the 5th of May. The strike began on the 5th with one department (Z Department) followed by another (N), the next day. The reasons for the strike are as follows.-

Z. Department.- On the fifth May, the workers of this department represented to Mr.Blake who had just taken charge of the office of the Manager, that their wages were cut down to two-thirds. He was not willing to consider their grievances but said that if they cared to work according those rates they may work, otherwise the gates of the factory are wide open and they may quit. When it was found that the reply of the management was unsympathstic, the workers of that department downed their tools and left in a body.

N. Department The next day, i.e. 6th May, the workers of this department presented a petition to Mr.Blake, containing their grievances requested that the management may consider their case and a reply be given as early as possible. Without any reply forthcoming and the same attitude as towards the Z Department being shown, the workers of this department too walked out and joined the workers of the Z Department.

Standard Departments.- On the afternoon of Thursday, the 7th May, the foreman of the department came to the workers and informed that the workers should work in three shifts, i.e. every worker shall get work only for two days in the week. The workers felt that due to this arrangement their wages will fall down to a very great extent They expressed that instead of the new system it would be better if the hours of work be shortened so that their wages may not fall very much. The same reply as for the other two department forthcoming, they joined hands with those two who had already downed tools.

Assault on the women.- On the eighth of May, the foreman of the F Department went to the workers consisting of 600 women and 250 men and informed them that they can go home until the workers of the above three department returned or they should fetch them themselves and begin the work. Thereupon the women workers replied that they

they could not bring back the strikers to work as it was the concern of the management only and that they have no objection to go away provided their wages for the days they were away on compulsory leave from the factory was paid to them, which the management refused. The women workers pleaded before the management that as they were the sole earning members of their big families they would be put to untold hardships if they were so discharged. The management was deaf to their repeated requests. The women thereupon appraached the manager in his office and placed their grievances before him. The manager instead of replying sent his Punjabi watch... to drive them out. Meanwhile a Police Force under a Sub Inspector was requested to come. Mr.Bowring handed over a letter to the Sub Inspector and asked him to drive out the women. When they were thus being mishandled with the main gates closed, the sympathetic Engineer, Mr. Wilkie arranged to open the Main's Court's Gate leading to his bungalow and allowed the workers consisting mostly of women carrying their babies in their arms. The Police and the Punjabi Watchmen chased them there also and beat them. Some of them were wounded. Just at the moment some of the male workmen came on the scene and seeing their women being so badly handled, got infuriated and then a scuffle followed between the police and the Punjabi Watchmen on one side and the workers on the other, in which both the parties were wounded.

On Saturday, the 9th May, the workers came as usual for work. The management took a few hands and asked the police to disburse the rest. This lead to their joining the ranks of the strikers.

<u>The Strike strengthened</u>.

The incident of the assault on the women and the condition of their own made the remaining workers join the strikers on Saturday, the 10th of May and strengthen the same. Since

Since then the work in the factory has come to a complete stoppage and all attempts of the factory management though their clerical staff to get some of the workers to work and thus break the strike have failed.

Out-siders in the strike.

On the sixth day of the strike when the information of the assault on the women and the strike was known to the public and no labour leaders going to the spot, Mr.N.N.Chandur and Dr.S.Rangaswami arrived on the scene to make enquiries about the whole affair. The former arrived in the morning and the latter in the evening. By then, the clerical staff were ~~asking~~ making futile attempts to break the strike and get them resume the work. When the two outsiders who had some experience in the labour work arrived on the scene and enquired about the situation after pacifying the strikers, they got immensely pleased with them and ever since they have been following them implicitly.

Attempts at conciliation.

Both in the afternoon and the evening of the sixth day meetings were held, order and peace were restored, the two outsiders taking their places as advisers to the strikers. In the afternoon, while the meeting was going on, a few members of the clerical staff came again. They were also allowed to speak. They said they were the real representatives of the workers and that they were trying to bring about an amicable settlement between the management and the workers. They were anxious to know their demands, which they wanted to place before the management. They were then requested to come in the evening to take the same.

By the evening the strikers came in large numbers and a huge meeting was held. In order to organise the atrike on a proper basis and keep it in a peaceful manner a strike committee was elected from among the workers alone and consisting of representatives of the various departments. The Committee immediately met and formulated their demands each department putting forth its grievances. The same was handed over by

by about 6-30 P.M. to the members of the staff who were waiting a little away from the meeting place. The demands of the workers is herewith attached.

The strike being a spontaneous and sporadic one, the strikers had not formulated their grievances in a proper and connected way. This the outsiders helped to do, without any way attempting to add anything to their demands.

On the morning of the 11th May, again some members of the clerical staff appeared at the meeting with an oral communication from the management that it would be better in the interest of both the parties to come to an early settlement and that they are prepared to meet the representatives of the workers and listen to their grievances.

In the meanwhile workers were arrested and detained in the lock-up on suspicion that they had taken part in the scuffle and assaulted the police and the watchmen. The strikers had got restless on that account.

In reply to the oral communication from the management a note was sent from the strike committee with the full approval of all the strikers that they will be pleased to meet the management and discuss over their grievances on condition that the management got the arrested workers released and their two outside advisers were allowed to participate in the discussions to follow as they would be at a disadvantage in making themselves understood to the Factory Manager and they could not trust the clerical staff or anybody connected with the factory to interpret them properly. This note was sent on the morning of the 11th May.

Further developments.

In reply to this a note was sent from the factory manager in his own handwriting saying that "the Members who are arrest-ed are entirely in the hands of the police and their release is a matter which can only be decided by the civil authorities" and that "the meeting at 6-30 p.m. will be convenient. The same evening a typed letter addressed to the strike committee and signed by the Manager was delivered to the strikers

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strikers informing them that the lighting arrangements in the factory was inadequate for a meeting in the evening and that any hour between 9 a.m. and 12 and 1 to 2 p.m. will be convenient. He also expressed that the representatives should limit to two from each department and that he does not recognise the two outside advisers and hence "should like to know in what capacity they were attending the meeting".

The same evening on receipt of the second note, the strikers pressed with one voice that they withdraw all their members and that if the management wanted to come to an early settlement they should hold consultation with their two advisers alone and that no worker will be coming.

Thereupon the factory manager sent a note on the addressed envelop itself asking them to meet him at the factory at 10 A.M. on the following day, (12-5-36).

Accordingly they both met him at the appointed place and time when the Manager said he should be glad to have at least one worker from each department even as something like a background and that he would inform them about the time and place to meet. The advisers returned with the information and immediately a delegation of one from each department was elected. The same afternoon a letter from the manager was delivered to Mr.N.N.Chandur at his place intimating us that our representatives along with our advisers should meet him at the B.R.V. Club at 9 A.M. the following day.

At that meeting the manager informed the delegation that late in the night he had received a wire from his Head Office at Calcutta to the effect that the Directors preferred discussions with the factory workers alone and not with outsiders, hence the talks could not proceed. On hearing from the workers and the two advisers were necessary, he added that he would, however, wire again to Calcutta and get their instructions and intimate to us again. The meeting dispersed and there was no further communication till the 15th evening when a letter was delivered informing us that they could

could only negotiate with their employees and were willing to consider any reasonable proposals which might lead to resumption of work.

On receipt of this letter, out-advisers felt that they should not be hindrances in the way of settlement and consequently advised us to send a delegation of the strikers representatives. This was done and again a meeting took place between the workers representatives and the management the next day at 10 A.M. in the factory premises. The meeting ended after a very short time, the management informing them that the strikers should resume work unconditionally and that they cannot consider any demands without that being fulfilled. The representatives returned without achieving anything and the strikers in a body decided to intensify the strike until all their grievances were redressed. Meetings were held both in the mornings and evenings and the strikers were exhorted to stand firm till their goal was reached.

This is not correct vide S.W.2 c.p.6, S.W.5 c.p.29 and S.W.6 c.p.30 of (R)

Besides we sent a memorial to the Hon'ble the British Resident in Mysore, who is the head of the Government to interfere and settle the dispute through arbitration under the Trade Disputes Act. To our utter dismay we received a communication from his office on the 26th May that without both the parties approaching the Government he could not invoke the aid of the said Act.

Failing interference from the Government, our advisers anxious to come to an early settlement approached some local influential gentlemen to terminate the strike. ~~The~~ Two sympathetic Europeans ~~and~~ met the Manager on the afternoon of the 27th May and requested him to come to a settlement. It appears he promised to consider things favourably and that he had no objections to meet the workers again. We were also informed that the number should be limited to six and that they must meet him at 10 A.M. the following day.

On the morning of the 28th May the six representatives met the Manager and held conversations with him for over an hour without any tangible result. The Manager promised that

that there would be no victimisation and in the same breath he held out to them that he would be free to retrench the number of workers to any extent he pleased. Further concessions, he said, he could not give. He has further definitely told our representatives that any concessions to the workers would mean an encouragement to further strikes and hence he was not prepared to grant anything; if the workers wanted they could resume work on this understanding.

The workers were wholly dissatisfied with this attitude and decided at the evening meeting that they shall not send thenceforwards any delegations and that they would even starve and die and continue the strike rather than submit to such insults.

In the afternoon of the 4th instant five workers of the factory interviewed the Manager independently of the strike committee to know exactly what he has to say with regard to the demands of the workers. The Manager promised to concede certain points and asked them to present the same to the strikers. The Strike Committee again arranged to send three more members along with them the next morning and get a written confirmation of the whole and consider further ways of coming to a settlement. When these eight workers went to the Manager the next day he confirmed the previous day's promise but refused to commit himself by putting it on paper. The workers, however, refused to accept an oral promise, which may after all come to nothing when the present manager leaves.

Working condition in the Factory.

The working conditions in this factory is very distressing. The tenure of service is never secure. Any ~~order~~ worker may be discharged without even an hour's notice and the democles sword always hangs on his shoulders, however many years he might have served.

There is no system of provident fund or bonus or any sort of gratuity to the workers in this factory. At Saharanpur and Monghyr, this is given in various forms, but they have withheld this concession to us in Bangalore.

There is no system of leave or increment. Even if one falls ill he has no help. Besides in the internal administration when a sick or wounded worker goes to the company medical man, even if the sick man needs only one day's rest, he is given 8 days leave and he cannot attend the Factory till those days of leave are over. He loses his wages for those days. Many of the workers are suffering under this disadvantage.

The condition of women workers needs a little elucidation. Their wages average from 6 annas to 9 annas per day. They have had no increment at all even after ten years service. They have work on only five days in the week and even then sometimes on working days they are asked to go home at 12 noon or at any hour the management likes and they lose their wages for the remaining period of the day; so much so that a woman worker getting wages at 9 annas a day having worked for all days they were allowed to work, received only Rs.7/- for the month of April. She has put in service in the factory since her girlhood. This much suffices to get an idea about their average earnings.

Coming to the question of maternity periods of women, one is struck with the callousness of the management. The women take leave just a day or two previous to their confinement and they have no hopes of getting back to service for a long period to come, say from 6 to 9 months and that too if the management wills. Demoralisation and corruption has crept in the way of their entry into service again, so much so that many women are forced to get into the claws of the awaiting money-lender.

This much is enough to explain the conditions of work in this factory which brings out such an enormous amount of profits out of the sweat of our brows.

- cs/rs
M. Ecchinadha
Munishap 10-6-36
dc/6.

(10th May 1936)

Tobacco Factory workers strike in Bangalore.

The workers of the Imperial Tobacco Factory are on strike for the past one week, more than 2,800 are involved in the strike. They held meetings on the 10th instant near the factory and presented the following demands to the management of the factory.

Same as Schedule B of S.W.2 (R) C p. 10-12 with a few alterations here and there

The Fundamental demands of the workers in general.

1. No victimisation of the strikers;
2. Those who have been arrested must be released and taken back for their original work without any black-mark;
3. No retrenchment in the number employed should be made, but the labour must be adjusted by transfer;
4. System of leave and increments and provident fund should be introduced as in the Binny Mills;
5. Maternity benefits for women must be given;
6. Wages should be paid for the strike period;
7. Recognition of the Union.
8. Sick leave with pay for 15 days in the year must be given.
9. New appointments must be made by the Foreman without the consultation of maistries and clerks, which gives room for corruption and while employing fresh hands preference being given to old hands;
10. Women workers must have equal wages and increments with men.

Demands of the different departments.

N. Department.

1. Wages and over-money should not be reduced in the N and Z departments for round and square tins;
2. Our wages should not be reduced when the soldering machine arrives. When the work is slack we may be transferred to any other department of an equal kind of work but must not be discharged.
3. Cleaners should be given increments according to the custom prevalent for years back.

Z. Department.

1. Our old rates i.e. wages we were getting before M3 & M4 tins into existence must be continued.
2. Our piece rates should not be reduced when the soldering machine comes. We may be transferred to other departments on an equal kind of work but not be discharged.
3. Company workers must get their regular increment in wages.

O. & F.Department.

1. The workers should get regular increments, tenure of service guaranteed and women workers must have equal treatment in wages.
2. Soldering workers of F Department should get over money as in N. Department.

3. All the three sets in the decorating department should be continued.

Engineering and P.Department.

Impartial enquiry must be held in regard to the unprovoked attack on woman by the Punjabies and Police, the damages sustained by the workers must be made good.

The coolies must be given regular increments in wages.

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C.P.
M. Ecclesfield
10-6-36.
Secretary.
10/6/36

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Copy of paragraph 2 of fortnightly report for Mysore for the first half of May 1936.

"On the afternoon of the 8th of May the Police had to deal with a labour disturbance at the cigarette factory of Tobacco Manufacturers(India) Ltd, in the Civil and Military Station. Fifty tin-workmen of the soldering department went on strike on the 5th of May because of a cut in wages. The number of strikers increased on the 6th and 7th. On the afternoon of the 8th the Management unexpectedly announced to the packing department coolies that for want of work their services would not be required for some days. The men demanded wages for these days; but the Management refused. A crowd of workmen then collected in the factory yard and began to give trouble. The small Police party on the spot, assisted by the Pathan watchmen of the cigarette factory, endeavoured to restore order. They were soon joined by a Sub-Inspector and about six constables; and the Manager asked the Sub-Inspector to clear the crowd out of the factory. The strikers then started to throw stones. They smashed the windows of the gate-house office and did some damage to the gate and office buildings and threw out the office records. The Police and watchmen succeeded in driving them out; but the rioting continued outside the gate of the factory. At this stage, however (in answer to a telephone call) a Sub-Inspector with a party of reserve Police armed with lathis arrived on the scene. They charged the mob from the rear; and the rioters at once dispersed and ran away. A dozen of the fugitives were arrested by the Police. The factory was guarded by the Police for the night, and a guard remains on duty. Some strikers appeared outside the gate of the factory on the morning of the 9th, but went away quietly when ordered to do so by the Police. Nine persons, including a Police Head Constable and a factory watchmen, were injured in the commotion; but none of the injuries was serious. An unattended motor-car belonging to a European

Sergeant of Police was over-turned and damaged by the mob. The men are still on strike. Negotiations are going on; but there has beem no progress yet towards a reconciliation or resumption of work. Conditions are otherwise quiet, and the Police are guarding the factory".

Signed · L.G.L.Evans
12/5/36

S.N. 12

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Copy of paragraph 1 of fortnightly report for Mysore for the second half of May 1936.

"The strike at the cigarette factory of Tobacco Manufactueres (India) Ltd still continues. The strikers have been holding daily meetings at which speeches have been made by Dr. S. Rangaswami, N.N. Chandur (a local congress worker) and other local congressmen. Dr. Rangaswami is a medical practitioner of Bangalore City who is interested in labour questions and who came to notice three years ago in Bombay as a Communist and follower of M.N. Roy. . The speakers have been encouraging the strikers to continue the strike; and they promise the redress of their grievances if they hold out. They advocate the formation of a Labour Union, but have advised the strikers to remain non-violent and to keep the peace. There are indications that some of the strikers would like to return to work; but the leaders and the majority are preventing them from doing so. The employers appear to be in a strong position, as they can hold out indefinitely. They have four other factories in India which are now said to be working overtime to replace the output of the Bangalore factory. The strikers recently submitted a memorial requesting the Resident to intervene "as an impartial arbitrator to bring about a speedy and honourable settlement". They were informed that the Resident was not prepared to intervene in the manner suggested at the instance of only one of the parties to the dispute."

Signed C.G.N. Edwards.
28/5/36

S.W.19.

Copy of paragraph 5 of Fortnightly Report for Mysore for the first half of June 1936.

5. "The strike at the cigarette factory of Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd., still continues. Strike meetings are being held daily. Dr. Rangaswami and Mr. N.N. Chandur continue to exhort the strikers to stay out until their grievances are redressed and are holding out the hope that sympathetic strikes will be organised at the factories of the Company in other parts of India. A procession of strikers through the Civil and Military Station announced for Sunday the 31st May was prohibited by the Commissioner of Police, and the leaders were instructed to take out a license for any such procession. A license was duly applied for and granted; and a procession under control passed off without incident on the 4th of June. An intended procession in Bangalore City was prohibited by the authorities there. The local Congress Committee, which was sympathising with and helping the strikers, has suddenly withdrawn its support and publicly dissociated itself from the strike and its leaders. The reason for this is not yet apparent. Some progress in negotiations between the Strike Committee and the Management appears to have been made during the last few days; and hopes of an early resumption of work have risen and fallen accordingly. A "Labour Union" of the strikers is reported to have been formed on the 8th of June, and on the same day Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, Mayor of Bombay (who has business interests in Bangalore) addressed a meeting of the strikers. A report of his speech is not yet available; but from newspaper accounts it appears that he urged that the Resident should refer the dispute to arbitration. The "Labour Union" which has been formed has Dr. Rangaswami as its President and Mr. N.N. Chandur as its General Secretary. Both belong to Bangalore City, and neither is in any way directly connected with the factory labour. There seems to be little doubt that the strike would have been

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settled long ago had it not been for the interference of these two agitators who, it seems, hope to make some financial gain out of their connection with the "Union". One of the Punjabi watchmen who was injured in the riot at the beginning of the strike died in hospital on the 9th of June".

Signed C.T.C. Plowden.
15/6/1936.

S.N. 20

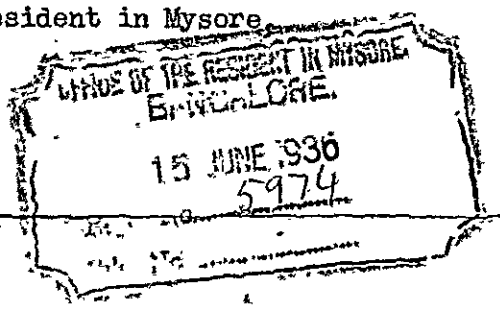
F.735-36.

To

The Secretary

to the Hon'ble the British Resident in Mysore,

B A N G A L O R E.



Sir,

It is now 40 days since the strike in the local Tobacco Factory began. All our attempts at conciliation with the management having brought no results. We are at a loss to know what to do. Besides the workers had petitioned the Hon'ble the Resident to appoint an arbitration. We received a reply from the Secretary to the Resident that as only one party had approached, the Government could not interfer. However, we are glad to understand that the trade Disputes Act authorises the Government to appoint an arbitration, even if only one party petitions. We, therefore, are anxious to wait in a deputation on the Hon'ble the Resident to reconsider the decision of his Government in the settlement of this dispute in a way honourable to both parties. We shall be thankful to you if you can arrange for a deputation of the representatives of the workers and some citizens to meet the Hon'ble the Resident and oblige.

Thanking you,

Yours truly,

General Secretary,

Tobacco Factory Workers Union,

Bangalore.

C/o Naidu & sons,
confectioners,
wheeler Road,
opposite Cox Town Post Office,
Bangalore Cantt.

Bangalore,

13-6-'36.

S.W.21

170

DEPARTMENT.

BRANCH.

File No.

Serial No.

Draft ~~Letter~~ / Memorandum / ~~Telegram~~ F.735-36/R.O.II.

No. Dated 20/6/ 1936

Class for telegrams

Ordinary
Express
Urgent*
Priority
Clear Line†

*Only for Foreign Telegrams.

†Not for Foreign Telegrams.

From The Secretary to the Resident.

To

Mr. Chandur,
~~General Secretary, Tobacco Factory Workers Union, Bangalore,~~
C/O Naidu & Sons, Confectioners,
Wheeler Road, Opposite Cox Town
Post Office, Bangalore Cantt.

To be issued on	Issued on
1st Reminder	
2nd Reminder	
3rd Reminder	
Heading :	
Case or Diary No.	
If post copy of telegram required	
Date of despatch of above	
List of enclosures	

(Code word for telegrams.)

MEMORANDUM

With reference to his letter dated the 13th June 1936, Mr. Chandur is informed that the Hon'ble the Resident has directed the Collector and District Magistrate to receive a deputation of the Strike Committee on application being made by them to the Collector to this effect. ~~The deputation is to~~ Should ~~consist only of the representatives from among the strikers themselves.~~

Secretary to the Resident.

Copy forwarded to the Collector & District Magistrate, C & M Station, Bangalore, for information.

T.N.T
18-6-36.

S. 5.
MGIPC—SI—158(Genl)MFP—(M.1983)—3.5.34—50,000 Pads.

mas
18/6/36

S.W. 22

71

Office of the District Magistrate,
Civil and Military Stn., Bangalore.

Dated 24th June 1936.

My Dear Edwards,

OFFICE OF THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE
BANGALORE
25 JUNE 1936
Regd No. 6327
File No. 735/36

Strike at the Tobacco Factory.

I understand Col. Plowden wishes to be informed from time to time of any developments in connection with the strike.

6327

This morning I received a letter requesting me to fix a time to receive the proposed deputation. I have fixed Friday the 26th at 3 P.M. I was asked to receive Dr. Rangasamy and one another with the deputation but have said that I shall meet representatives only from among the workers themselves.

I have seen the Manager (Mr Rowatt) once or twice as desired by the Resident to see whether any possibilities of an approchment exist. It appears that more machinery is being sent away, as the Company has to fulfil orders, and that the longer the strikers stay out the less likelihood there will be of work for those who are willing to return. Reabsorption of labour will have to be gradual, and the longer the strikers remain out, the more gradual it will be.

Mr.

Mr. Chandur has meantime gone to Bombay (to see Mr. Jamnadas Mehta presumably) and intends, it is said, to visit Saharanpur.

Several strikers were run in by the police under the Police Law for picketing or molesting the clerical staff a few days ago. Since then there have been no further instances of picketing.

Further information will be furnished in my Fortnightly Report.

Yours sincerely,

Major C.G.N. Edwards, I.A.,
Secretary to the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

S. No. 2-5

Copy of paragraph 3 of fortnightly report for Mysore for the second half of June 1936.

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3. "The strike at the cigarette factory still continues. Fruitless negotiations between the Management and the strikers continued up till the 15th June; but on that date the Management put up a notice announcing the closing of the factory till further orders. On the 18th June the strikers started picketting near the gate of the factory to prevent the clerks and overseers from going to work. Two batches of four persons each were taken in charge by the Police and dealt with under section 62 of the Bangalore Police Law; and after this the picketting was discontinued. On the same day Mr. N.N. Chandur left on a journey to Bombay, Calcutta, Saharanpur, and Monghyr, with the intention of approaching labour leaders like Mr. Jamnadas Mehta, N.N. Joshi, and others in the hope of organising sympathetic strikes elsewhere. He hopes also to enlist the support of Major Attlee in the House of Commons. Meanwhile a Mr. J.L. Saldanha, of Bangalore Civil and Military Station, who appears to be a disinterested party, has taken the initiative, on the request of some of the residents of the workers' locality, to intervene and try to bring about a settlement. The Collector of the Civil and Military Station has discussed the situation with the Manager of the factory on several occasions to see whether any possibilities of a rapprochement exists. It appears that more and more machinery is being sent away from Bangalore to the other factories of the Company, as orders have to be met; and it is clear that the longer the strikers stay out, the less likelihood there will be of work for all those who are willing to return. Re-absorption of labour will in any case have to be gradual; and the longer the strikers remain out, the more gradual it will have to be. On the 24th June the Collector received a request to receive a deputation from the Strike Committee.

saw the deputation, consisting of six representatives from among the strikers, on the 26th June. He explained to them the working of the Trades Disputes Act, and the impracticability of government intervention in the present dispute, which is not of purely local concern but is between the labourers of the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore and the Managing Body of Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Ltd., which is an all-India concern. The Collector invited questions from the deputation; and several of them spoke detailing their grievances. Eventually he offered to interview the Management on their behalf, if they so wished, to see whether he could effect any reconciliation. He has no great hope, however, of being able to effect much in that direction; for even with the best will in the world, the Manager can not now take the whole labour force back, owing to machinery and materials having been sent away to other factories under the Company's control. The demands of the strikers seem now to amount only to three:-

(1) No "victimisation",
(2) No retrenchment
and (3) Maternity benefits.

A few of the strikers have recently resumed work on reduced daily wages. Others have attempted to rejoin, but have been refused by the Manager on the ground that the factory is closed. Food is being distributed occasionally; and the strikers so far remain orderly and peaceful."

Sd/- C.T.C. Plowden.
29/6

Secy. A.S.N. 24

23/6

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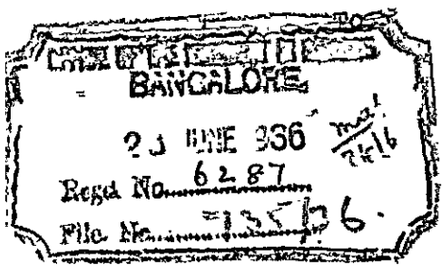
No:D.1382-I.A./36.

From

The Assistant Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign and Political Department,



The Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore.

Dated Simla, the 19th June 1936.

Sir,

I am directed to transmit to you the letter, of which particulars are given in the margin, and to request that if you see no objection it may be returned to the writers with an intimation that their representation cannot be entertained by the Government of India, unless submitted through the local authority, viz. through you.

From the Members of the Strike Committee, Bangalore, with enclosure regarding labour strike in the factory of Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Limited dated the 6th June, 1936.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

S. V. Sharma.

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

S. R. 25

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Res. Mysore 39.

Issued 30-6-36.

OFFICE OF THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE,

Bangalore, the 4th July 1936

Issued MP 4/7

No. F. 735-36 / R. O. II. encl: 2 to

A copy of the undermentioned paper(s) is forwarded to the Collector, C & M Station, Bangalore, with the request that the ~~memorandum~~ letter may kindly be returned to the writers with ~~this~~ an intimation that their representation cannot be entertained by the Govt. of India, unless submitted through the Hon'ble the Resident.

~~for information,~~ in ~~continuation of~~ / with reference to ~~the correspondence ending with his~~ Memorandum / letter / endorsement ~~from~~

~~No.~~ ~~dated the~~

By order, etc.,

30/6

~~Secretary~~ / Asst. Secy. *to the Resident.*

LIST OF PAPERS.

Letter from the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department No.D.1382-I.A./36, dated the 19th June 1936 with enclosures in original.

mas 25/6/36

T.N.T. 26-6-36.

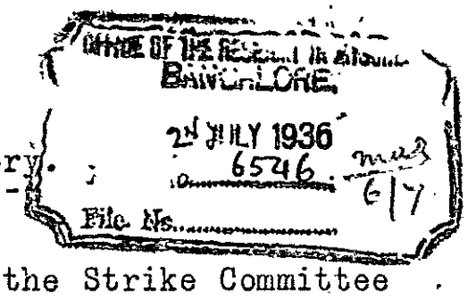
1621—2-4-1935—2,000—RPB.

Confidential.
S.N. 26.

77

Office of the District Magistrate,
Civil & Military Station, Bangalore.

Dated 30th June 1936.



My Dear Edwards,

Strike in Tobacco Factory.

After I received the deputation of the Strike Committee on Friday 26th Instsnt, they waited again at my suggestion on the Manager the following day (Saturday 27th). I saw Mr.Rowatt the Manager later on that day. The main point at issue between them was that of "no retrenchment". This according to the Manager is in effect merely a request for "Permanent employment" in another form. The factory owing to the transfer and dismantling of machinery and the sending away of materials to other factories to fulfil orders, cannot now provide full time work for more than 400. The Strikers ask that the whole pre-strike labour force be taken on short-time shifts to carry out this work. The Manager says that both in principle, and in practice owing to disorganisation of the factory, this is a demand which it is not possible to concede.

Mr. Rowatt left for Calcutta to see his Directors on Sunday morning, and I suggested that he bring back from them a manifesto stating clearly what demands they are prepared to concede or consider. If they are not prepared to concede the principle of "no retrenchment" on the lines suggested, they should be in a position to say in what time it would be possible to re-entertain the whole staff or most of it.

In the meantime I have received a petition (copy enclosed) from the Strike Committee. But until Mr. Rowatt returns from Calcutta (about the end of the week) any intervention on my part would be infructuous.

Yours Sincerely,

Major C.G.N. Edwards, I.A.,
Secretary to the Resident
in Mysore, Bangalore.

To

The Collector,
C.& M.Station,Bangalore.

Sir,

We, your humble deputationists from the Tobacco Factory Strike Committee, had an interview with the Manager of the Factory on 27-6-36 in the morning according to your direction.

The result of the interview was the following.- The management is not prepared to employ the full strength of labourers on strike, and they cannot promise that they will absorb all hands even within a month's time. At present they require only 400 labourers. They are not in favour of any shift arrangement. The Manager promised to consult these points with the Directors as he had been called to Calcutta.

We insisted on having shifts untill the work resumed its old state. We did not accept the taking in of only 400 labourers,which means standing out of the majority.

So, we beg to humbly approach you for your furtner interference on our behalf. We are quite certain that the management is able to take all the hands in one month's time if it is not going to be revengeful on poor folk like us.

So we in all humility pray that you should advise the management accordingly.

We beg to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient servants,

(Sd) Joseph.

(Sd) G.Kuppusamy.
for Strike Committee.

Bangalore,
29-6-1936.

Confidential

D. No. 6651.
F. 735-36.

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D. O.

SW. 27

By N.C.S.
6/7/36

OFFICE OF THE COLLECTOR AND DT. MAGISTRATE,
CIVIL AND MILITARY STATION, BANGALORE.

Dated 5/7/ 1936.

My dear Edwards,

The attached letter with enclosure was handed to me by Blake yesterday, and Richter and I had a long talk with him regarding arrangements for resumption of work.

We advised him not to hurry matters after posting the notice, but to give the workers a day or two to think it over, before notifying those whom they are taking back immediately. It is possible that the Strike Committee may ask to see me again after the notice is posted tomorrow afternoon. If so I shall speak to them on the lines of the letter, and advise them to accept its terms which are apparently as far as the Company is prepared to go. I advised Blake to be particularly careful over the question of victimisation if they raised it with him and to say that no persons would be refused work on the

sole ground that he took a leading part in the strike, but that the needs of the Factory would be the paramount consideration. He promised to handle the question tactfully. (I think it is in the question of victimisation only that may prevent a settlement)

Blake is hopeful that the posting of the notice will result in a gradual and peaceable resumption of work. I am also sanguine, as the Police report it appears that there is a genuine fear among the strikers of the Factory being closed altogether owing to the rumour that one of the directors (from England) who took part in the meeting at Calcutta is opposed to the running of the Factory in Bangalore.

Rowatt is expected to return from Calcutta on Tuesday or Wednesday. Blake was confident that nothing would be gained by waiting until his return.

Yours sincerely

Lewis Lewis.

P.S. I should be grateful for the return of the enclosure tomorrow, in case the Strike Committee wish to see me.

LL.

IMMEDIATE
Confidential.

S.W.28

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PERSONAL.

Bangalore,
6th July 1936.

735-36

Issued
5/7/36

My dear MacIver.

Many thanks for your letter of the 5th July about the situation at the Tobacco Factory. I have shown the papers to the Resident; and I am now returning the enclosures to your letter, as requested.

Yours sincerely.

O/C

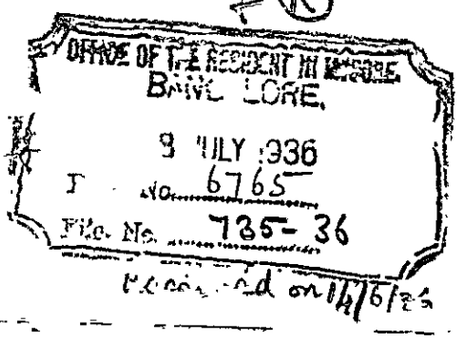
L. J. MacIver, Esq., I.C.S.,
Collector & District Magistrate,
Civil and Military Station, Bangalore.

S.N.29

No.D.1446-I.A./36.

The undermentioned paper is forwarded to the Hon'ble the Resident in Mysore, for favour of disposal, with reference to the correspondence resting with his letter No.F.735-36 dated the 13th June 1936.
R.O. 11

S.N.15
C.P.49



By order, etc.,

Assistant Secretary to the Government of India.

Foreign and Political Department,

S I M L A ,

The 4th July 1936

Telegram dated the 16th June 1936 from the President, Tobacco Workers Union to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Defence Department.

Telegram dated the 16th June 1936 from the President, Tobacco Factory Workers Union, Bangalore, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Defence Department, Simla.

---:O:---

Management Tobacco Factory declared lock out yesterday. Pray interference Trade Disputes Act. Strike period forty-three days.

---:O:---

O/C

BJ

S.N.30

(84)

Res. Mysore 39.

OFFICE OF THE HON'BLE THE RESIDENT IN MYSORE,

Bangalore, the 24th July 1936.

No. F.735-36 / R. O. II. encl: 1

~~A copy of~~ The undermentioned paper(s) is forwarded to the

Collector, C & M Station, Bangalore, for favour of disposal,

~~for information,~~ in continuation of ~~with reference to~~ ~~the correspondence ending with his~~

S.N.25. c.p.76. Memorandum / ~~letter~~ / endorsement from this Residency No.F.735-36/R.O.II, dated the 4th July 1936.

~~No:~~ ~~dated the~~

By order, etc.,

Secretary / *Asst. Secy.* *to the Resident.*

LIST OF PAPERS.

Encl. to S.N.29. c.p.82

Telegram dated the 16th June 1936 from the President, Tobacco Factory Workers Union to the Secretary to the Govt. of India in the Defence Department.

1621—2-4-1935—2,000—RPB.

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THE MADRAS MAIL, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 1936

Madras

1. Name of Paper

2. Published at

3. Dated

Marked by

WHY THE RESIDENT DID NOT INTERVENE

Sir F. Noyce on Bangalore Tobacco Factory Strike

EXTENSION OF TRADE UNION ACT TO CANTONMENT

SIMLA, Oct. 12.

In the Legislative Assembly today, Mr. N. G. Ranga (Nellore, Congress), asked the following questions regarding the recent strike in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory:

Will Government be pleased to state: (a) if they are aware of the fact that there was a strike of 2,000 workers employed in the Bangalore Tobacco Factory of the Tobacco Manufacturers (India) Limited, from May 5, till July 10;

(b) Whether the strikers approached the Hon. the Resident in Mysore with the request to appoint an Arbitration Board and that he refused to do so on the plea that the employers did not agree;

(c) Whether the strikers thereupon appealed to Government to intervene and help them;

(d) Whether they turned down their appeal on the technical ground that it was not sent through the Hon. the Resident;

(e) Whether the workers had agreed to go back to work when the Factory was re-opened, after its temporary closure and whether the employers refused to take back as many as 1,000 workers who were previously, on strike; and

(f) If the answer to the above be in the affirmative what action Government propose to take to help the workers to get back to work and relieve the distress due to unemployment?

Official Reply

Replying, Sir Frank Noyce (Member for Industries and Labour) said: (a) Yes. The number of workers involved was reported to be 1,800;

(b) to (d) The workers submitted a memorial to the Resident requesting the Government to intervene as an 'impartial arbitrator' and they were informed that the Resident was not prepared to intervene in the manner suggested at the instance of only one of the parties to the dispute;

(e) Owing to the transfer of machinery and for other reasons, the management informed the workers that they would be reengaged gradually. About 1,100 employees were at work at the end of August and Government understand that further hands will be engaged when more materials and machinery are received in the factory;

(f) Government cannot force employers to take workers whom they do not require.

Mr. N. G. Ranga asked: Will Government be pleased to state: (a) If they are aware that the workers of the Bangalore Tobacco Factory, when they were on strike and later on, while unemployed, approached the Collector, who is also the President of the Municipality to suspend the collection of rents on their Cantonment house sites;

(b) Whether the Collector was first willing to make that concession, after hearing the plea of the Secretary of the Workers' Union; and

(c) Whether he refused to make that concession on the ground that he could not recognise the Union, which was not recognised by the Hon. the Resident?

Sir Frank Noyce: "The Government have no information."

Trade Union Act

Mr. N. G. Ranga asked Government to state; (a) if the Indian Trade Union Act has been extended to the Bangalore Cantonment;

(b) If not, why not; and

(c) Whether they are aware of the fact that the workers of the Tobacco Company have suffered immensely by their failure to extend that Act and to recognise the Trade Union?

Sir Frank Noyce replied (a) no;

(b) The question of applying the Act to the Civil and Military Station, Bangalore, is under consideration; and

(c) No.—U.P.

S. 16.

MFP—315 S&P—(M-438)—19-6-35—60,000.